

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3811
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC
USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HTS CANAL ZONE
USDEL JBUSMC RIO DE JANEIRO
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
DMA WASHDC
CSA WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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SUBJECT: BRZILIAN DENUNCIATION OF MILITARY ACCORDS

REF: (A) BRASILIA 7668 (B) BRASILIA 7669 (C) BRASILIA 7670

1. SUMMARY. PRESS REACTION TO GOB DENUNCIATIONS OF MILITARY ACCORDS WITH US (REFTELS) HAS FOCUSSED ON SUBSTANCE OF NOTE AND PRESS BRIEFING, WITH COMMENTARY EMPHASIZING THAT ACCORDS (A) HAD OUTLIVED THEIR VALUE TO BRAZIL, (B) WERE A NATURAL FOLLOW-ON TO DENUNCIATION OF 1952 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE TREATY IN MARCH, AND STATING EXPLICIT GOB DESIRE TO CONTINUE FUTURE MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL
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COOPERATION. EDITORIAL COMMENT AND REACTION BY PUBLIC FIGURES HAS BEEN LIMITED. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO JUXTAPOSED STORY ABOUT DENUNCIATION WITH STORY SPECULATING PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD VISIT BRAZIL THIS YEAR (BRASILIA 7696). END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER HEADLINES PROCLAMING "BRAZILIAN MILITARY CONSOLIDATES INDEPENDENCE FROM THE US," CORREGIO BRAZILIENSE OUTLINED AGREEMENTS

ABROGATED SEPTEMBER 19. CORREIO ALSO FRONT-PAGED MISLEADING HEADLINE "BRAZIL ANNOUNCES RESCISSION OF CONTRACT WITH US FOR NORTH AMERICAN NAVAL BASES" WITH NO ACCOMPANYING EXPLANATION. PAPER CARRIED A CARLOS CONDE COLUMN ENTITLED "LAST WARNING" WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THE DENUNCIATION OF THE MILITARY ACCORDS "CAN BE AN OPPORTUNITY, ALTHOUGH LATE, FOR WASHINGTON TO ACCEPT AND PERCEIVE A NEW PROFILE OF BRAZIL. WE ALREADY DISCOVERED A LONG TIME AGO THAT NOT ALL THAT IS GOOD FOR THE UNITED STATES IS GOOD FOR BRAZIL AND WE HOPE THAT THE NORTH AMERICANS ALSO DISCOVER THIS." JORNAL DE BRASILIA ALSO FACTUALLY REPORTED ON GOB ANNOUNCEMENT BUT CONTAINED NO EDITORIAL COMMENT.

3. RIO'S O GLOBO DWELT UPON FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKEMAN LAMPREIA'S COMMENT ABOUT DENUNCIATIONS SEPTEMBER 19. PAPER SAID LAMPREIA EMPHASIZED GOB'S DESIRE "TO MAINTAIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON TRADITIONAL BASES OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER STATE." LAMPREIA STRESSED THAT DENUNCIATIONS WERE FOLLOW-ON TO THE MARCH 11 DENUNCIATION OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ITAMARATY HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE EMFA STUDY WHICH LED TO THE DENUNCIATIONS BUT HAD "SHOWN ITSELF FAVORABLE" IN REVIEWING THEM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

4. JORNAL DO BRAZIL SAID THAT BRAZILIAN ARMED FORCES WOULD BE OPEN TO NEGOTIATION OF NEW CONTRACTS WITH US ARMED FORCES ON A UNCLASSIFIED

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BASIS OF EQUALITY SINCE THE CONNOTATION UNDER WHICH BRAZIL "WAS ALWAYS THE ONE ASSISTED" HAD NOW BEEN DEFINITELY REMOVED IN THE OLD ACCORDS. THIS INFORMATION WAS ATTRIBUTED TO AN EMFA OFFICIAL WHO SPECULATED THAT CONVERSATIONS ON THIS BASIS COULD BE HELD DURING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE IN OCTOBER. JORNAL ALSO SAID THAT SILVEIRA HAD MADE A LONG EXPLANATION SEPTEMBER 19 TO ARENA CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ABOUT THE DENUNCIATIONS IN WHICH SILVEIRA REPORTEDLY SAID THE DECISION TO ABROGATE THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN NATURALLY PRECEDED BY CONSULTATIONS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY. ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING, ARENA CHAMBER LEADER JOSE BONIFACIO, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE DECISION WILL NOT AFFECT "THE EXCELLENT LEVEL OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES." HE ADDED THAT THE RUP-TURE WILL PERMIT GREATER AUTONOMY FOR BRAZIL WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO "BUY ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHERE IT JUDGED IT TO BE MORE CONVENIENT TO ITS INTERESTS." SIMILARLY O GLOBO REPORTED THAT CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT MACIEL SAID THAT THE BRAZILIAN DECISION "WILL NOT HAVE ANY AFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." JORNAL QUOTED MDB CHAMBER LEADER FREITAS NOBRE, WHO NOTED IRONICALLY THAT A SHORT TIME AGO IF A PARLIAMENTARIAN OR THE PRESS HAD CRITICIZED THESE DOCUMENTS, "THE ACCUSATION OF COMMUNISM WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE."

5. BOTH O GLOBO AND FOLHA DE SAO PAULO PUBLISHED STORY APPARENTLY BASED ON LEAK FROM SILVEIRA'S MEETING WITH ARENA CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE VISITING BRAZIL (BRASILIA 7696). FOLHA JUXTAPOSED STORY WITH ARTICLE ABOUT DENUNCIATIONS, WHICH IMPLIED US-GOB RELATIONS WOULD NOT BE HARMED, AS EVIDENCED BY ALLEGEDLY IMPENDING CARTER VISIT. FOLHA SAID DIPLOMATIC SOURCES EXPECTED A NEW ROUND OF US PRESSURE AGAINST THE FRG-GOB NUCLEAR AGREEMENT, AND THAT THE DENUNCIATIONS, DESPITE GOB DESIRE FOR DIALOGUE WITH WHITE HOUSE, WERE MEANT TO DEMONSTRATE BRAZIL WOULD NOT ACCEPT NEW PRESSURES. FOLHA SAID OTHER SOURCES SPECULATED THAT GOB WANTED TO REDUCE US MILITARY INFLUENCE HERE IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE DURING A PERIOD OF CHANGE. FOLHA ATTRIBUTED TO MILITARY SOURCES IDEA THAT GOB WANTED DENUNCIATIONS

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TO OCCUR NOW TO REMOVE ANY OBSTACLES TO FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US, SUCH AS DURING VANCE VISIT. SAME SOURCES REPORTEDLY SAID DENUNCIATIONS OPENED UP POSSIBILITY OF BROADER ACQUISITION OF ARMS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE.

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6. ESTADO COLUMNIST CARLOS CONDE CLAIMED DENUNCIATIONS WERE MOTIVATED BY SILVEIRA DESIRE "TO CLEAR THE TERRAIN" FOR A NEW STAGE IN THE DIALOGUE WITH THE US. BRAZILIAN MILITARY HAD PUSHED FOR THE ABROGATIONS, ACCORDING TO CONDE, BECAUSE THEY WANTED (1) TO ESTABLISH A DOCTRINE WITHOUT "DEFINITIVE LINKS" TO ANY COUNTRY AND (2) TO DIVERSIFY THEIR SOURCES OF WEAPONS. CONDE CONCLUDED THAT ACCORDS HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY DEAD FOR MANY YEARS BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN BOTH BRAZIL ITSELF AND THE GLOBAL SITUATION. THAT COMBINED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT AND NUCLEAR PRESSURES EVENTUALLY LED TO THE DENUNCIATIONS AND THE END OF ALONG PROCESS OF DISENGAGEMENT IN MILITARY RELATIONS.

7. SAO PAULO'S GAZETA MERCANTIL COLUMNIST SIDNEY BASILE SPECULATED
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THAT GOB'S NEW TOUGHNESS WAS TIED TO BRAZIL'S PARTICIPATION NEXT WEEK IN THE UNGA AND MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN NEW YORK AND LATER IN OCTOBER IN BRASILIA. BASILE SAW BALL NOW IN SECRETARY'S COURT AND SAID WHEN SILVEIRA MEETS SECRETARY NEXT WEEK, FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE MORE APT TO LISTEN THAN SPEAK, AND WILL BE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HEAR WHETHER SECRETARY WILL STILL BE VISITING BRAZIL.

8. PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN COLONEL CAMARGO SEPTEMBER 21 POINTEDLY EXPRESSED HIS DISPLEASURE WITH INTERPRETATION IN SOME OF PRESS TO EFFECT THE DENUNCIATIONS REPRESENTED AN "AGGRAVATION" IN USG-GOB RELATIONS. CAMARGO EXPLAINED THE ACTION AS A "NATURAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE GOB'S DECISION LAST MARCH DENOUNCING THE BILATERAL MILITARY ACCORDS." CAMARGO THEN READ TO PRESS LAST PARAGRAPH OF GOB'S NOT WHICH REAFFIRMED GOB'S DESIRE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH US (REFTEL A). CAMARGO REPORTEDLY SAID THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY "INTENSIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES FOR MILITARY COOPERATION AND TRAINING, AS BRAZIL HAD FOR MANY YEARS BEEN EXCHANGING MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH GRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, UK AND ARGENTINA, ETC."
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